

261—68.4 (15) Tax incentives and assistance.

68.4(1) Sales and use tax refund. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.331A, the approved business may be entitled to a refund of the sales and use taxes paid under Iowa Code chapter 423 for gas, electricity, water, or sewer utility services, goods, wares, or merchandise, or on services rendered, furnished, or performed to or for a contractor or subcontractor and used in the fulfillment of a written contract relating to the construction or equipping of a facility of the approved business. Taxes attributable to intangible property and furniture and furnishings shall not be refunded.

a. Filing a claim. To receive the refund, the approved business shall file a claim with the department of revenue as follows:

(1) The contractor or subcontractor shall state under oath, on forms provided by the department of revenue, the amount of sales or goods, wares, or merchandise, or services rendered, furnished, or performed, including water, sewer, gas, and electric utility services upon which sales or use tax has been paid prior to the project completion, and shall file the forms with the approved business before final settlement is made.

(2) The approved business shall, not more than 12 months following project completion, make application to the department of revenue for any refund of the amount of the sales and use taxes paid pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 423 upon any goods, wares, or merchandise, or services rendered, furnished, or performed, including water, sewer, gas, and electric utility services.

(3) The eligible business shall inform the department of revenue in writing within two weeks of project completion.

b. Racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment. If the project is the location, expansion, or modernization of a warehouse or distribution center, the approved business may be entitled to a refund of sales and use taxes attributable to racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment. The approved business shall, not more than 12 months following project completion, make written application to the department for a refund. The application must include the refund amount being requested and documentation such as invoices or contracts which substantiate the requested amount. The department, in consultation with the department of revenue, will validate the refund amount and instruct the department of revenue to issue the refund.

The aggregate combined total amount of refunds and tax credits attributable to sales and use taxes on racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment issued by the department to businesses approved for high quality jobs program and enterprise zone program benefits shall not exceed \$500,000 during a fiscal year. Tax refunds and tax credits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. If an approved business's application does not receive a refund or tax credits due to the \$500,000 fiscal year limitation, the approved business's application shall be considered in the succeeding fiscal year.

68.4(2) Corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.331C, the approved business may claim a corporate tax credit up to an amount equal to the sales and use taxes paid by a third-party developer under Iowa Code chapter 423 for gas, electricity, water, or sewer utility services, goods, wares, or merchandise, or on services rendered, furnished, or performed to or for a contractor or subcontractor and used in the fulfillment of a written contract relating to the construction or equipping of a facility of the approved business. Taxes attributable to intangible property and furniture and furnishings shall not be refunded.

Any tax credit in excess of the tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs earlier. An approved business may elect to receive a refund of all or a portion of an unused tax credit.

a. Filing a claim. To receive the tax credit, the approved business shall file a claim with the department as follows:

(1) The third-party developer shall state under oath, on forms provided by the department of revenue, the amount of sales and use taxes paid and submit the forms to the approved business.

(2) The approved business shall, not more than 12 months following project completion, submit the completed forms to the department.

(3) In consultation with the department of revenue, the department shall issue a tax credit certificate in an amount equal to all or a portion of the sales and use taxes paid by a third-party developer under Iowa Code chapter 423 for gas, electricity, water, or sewer utility services, goods, wares, or merchandise, or on services rendered, furnished, or performed to or for a contractor or subcontractor and used in the fulfillment of a written contract relating to the construction or equipping of a facility of the approved business.

(4) The approved business shall not claim the tax credit provided in this subrule unless a tax credit certificate issued by the department is attached to the approved business's tax return for the tax year in which the tax credit is claimed. A tax credit certificate shall contain the approved business's name, address, tax identification number, the amount of the tax credit, and other information required by the department of revenue.

b. Racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment. If the project is the location, expansion, or modernization of a warehouse or distribution center, the approved business may claim a corporate tax credit up to the amount of sales and use taxes paid by a third-party developer and attributable to racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment. The approved business shall, not more than 12 months following project completion, make written application to the department for a tax credit. The application must include the tax credit amount being requested and documentation from the third-party developer such as invoices or contracts which substantiate the requested amount. The department, in consultation with the department of revenue, will confirm the tax credit amount and issue a tax credit certificate in an amount equal to all or a portion of the sales and use taxes attributable to racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment. The approved business shall not claim the tax credit provided in this subrule unless a tax credit certificate issued by the department is attached to the approved business's tax return for the tax year in which the tax credit is claimed. A tax credit certificate shall contain the approved business's name, address, tax identification number, the amount of the tax credit, and other information required by the department of revenue. Any tax credit in excess of the tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs earlier. An approved business may elect to receive a refund of all or a portion of an unused tax credit.

The aggregate combined total amount of refunds and tax credits attributable to sales and use taxes on racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment issued by the department to businesses approved for high quality jobs program and enterprise zone program benefits shall not exceed \$500,000 during a fiscal year. Tax refunds and tax credits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. If an approved business's application does not receive a refund or tax credits due to the \$500,000 fiscal year limitation, the approved business's application shall be considered in the succeeding fiscal year.

68.4(3) Value-added property tax exemption. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.332, the community may exempt from taxation all or a portion of the actual value added by improvements to real property directly related to jobs created or retained by the location or expansion of the approved business and used in the operations of the approved business. The exemption may be allowed for a period not to exceed 20 years beginning the year the improvements are first assessed for taxation. For purposes of this subrule, improvements include new construction and rehabilitation of and additions to existing structures. The exemption shall apply to all taxing districts in which the real property is located. The community shall provide the department and the local assessor with a copy of the resolution adopted by its governing body which indicates the estimated value and duration of the authorized exemption.

68.4(4) Investment tax credit.

a. Claiming the investment tax credit. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.333, the approved business may claim an investment tax credit equal to a percentage of the new investment directly related to jobs created or retained by the start-up, location, expansion, or modernization of the approved business under the program. The tax credit shall be earned when the qualifying asset is placed in service.

(1) Five-year amortization period. The tax credit shall be amortized equally over a five-year period which the department will, in consultation with the approved business, define. The five-year amortization period will be specified in the agreement referenced in subrule 68.5(1). The tax credit shall be allowed against taxes imposed under Iowa Code chapter 422, division II, III, or V and against the moneys and credits tax imposed in Iowa Code section 533.24.

(2) Flow-through of tax credits. If the business is a partnership, S corporation, limited liability company, cooperative organized under Iowa Code chapter 501 or 501A and filing as a partnership for federal tax purposes, or estate or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the tax credit allowed. The amount claimed by the individual shall be based upon the pro rata share of the individual's earnings of the partnership, S corporation, limited liability company, cooperative organized under Iowa Code chapter 501 or 501A and filing as a partnership for federal tax purposes, or estate or trust.

(3) Seven-year carryforward. A tax credit in excess of the tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs first.

b. Investment qualifying for the tax credit. For purposes of this subrule, new investment directly related to jobs created or retained by the start-up, location, expansion or modernization of the approved business under the program means all of the following:

(1) The cost of machinery and equipment, as defined in Iowa Code section 427A.1, subsection 1, paragraphs "e" and "j," purchased for use in the operation of the approved business.

(2) The purchase price of real property and any buildings and structures located on the real property.

(3) The cost of improvements made to real property which is used in the operation of the approved business.

(4) The annual base rent paid to a third-party developer by an approved business for a period equal to the term of the lease agreement but not to exceed the maximum term of the agreement referenced in subrule 68.5(1), provided the cumulative cost of the base rent payments for that period does not exceed the cost of the land and the third-party developer's costs to build or renovate the building for the approved business. Annual base rent shall be considered only when the project includes the construction of a new building or the major renovation of an existing building. The approved business shall enter into a lease agreement with the third-party developer for a minimum of five years.

Pursuant to subrule 68.4(9), the approved business shall not claim a tax credit above the amount defined in the final award documentation.

c. Refunds.

(1) Refund of unused tax credit. Subject to prior approval by the department, in consultation with the department of revenue, an approved business whose project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products or uses biotechnology-related processes may elect to receive a refund of all or a portion of an unused tax credit.

(2) IRS Section 521. For purposes of this paragraph, an approved business includes a cooperative, described in Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code, that is not required to file an Iowa corporate income tax return and whose project primarily involves the production of ethanol.

(3) Refund of unused tax credit procedures. For application to receive a refund of all or a portion of an unused tax credit, the following procedures apply:

1. Department approval required. The department will determine whether an approved business's project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products or uses biotechnology-related processes.

2. Application for a tax credit certificate. The approved business shall apply for a tax credit certificate using the form provided by the department. Requests for tax credit certificates will be accepted between May 1 and May 15 of each fiscal year. Only those approved businesses that have been issued final award documentation pursuant to subrule 68.4(9) before the May 1 filing date may apply for a tax credit certificate.

The department shall require the cooperative, as described in Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code, to submit a list of members whom the cooperative wishes to receive a tax credit certificate for their prorated share of ownership. The cooperative shall submit its list in a computerized electronic format that is compatible with the system used or designated by the department. For each cooperative member approved for a tax credit certificate, the computerized list shall, at a minimum, include the name, address, social security number or taxpayer identification number, business telephone number and ownership percentage, carried out to six decimal places. The cooperative shall also submit a total dollar amount of the unused investment tax credit for which the cooperative's members are requesting a tax credit certificate.

(4) Issuance of tax credit certificates. The department shall not issue tax credit certificates to approved businesses in the high quality jobs program and the enterprise zone program which total more than \$4 million during a fiscal year. If the department receives applications for tax credit certificates in excess of \$4 million, the applicants shall receive certificates for a prorated amount. In such a case, the tax credit requested by an approved business will be prorated based upon the total dollar amount of requested tax credit certificates received during the fiscal year. This proportion will be applied to the amount requested by each approved business to determine the amount of the tax credit certificate that will be distributed to each business for the fiscal year. For example, if an approved business submits a request in the amount of \$1 million and the total amount of requested tax credit certificates equals \$8 million, the business will be issued a tax credit certificate in the amount of \$500,000 ($\$4 \text{ million} / \$8 \text{ million} = 50\% \times \$1 \text{ million} = \$500,000$). The department will issue tax credit certificates within a reasonable period of time following the May 15 application deadline.

(5) Claiming the tax credit certificate. Tax credit certificates shall not be valid until the tax year following the date the final award documentation was issued. The tax credit certificates shall not be transferred except in the case of a cooperative as described in Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code whose approved project primarily involves the production of ethanol. For such cooperative, the individual members of the cooperative are approved to receive the tax credit certificates. The approved business may not claim a tax credit refund unless a tax credit certificate issued by the department is attached to the taxpayer's tax return for the tax year in which the tax credit refund is claimed.

(6) Carryforward. An approved business may apply for a tax credit certificate once each year for up to seven years after the final award documentation is issued or until the approved business's unused tax credit is depleted, whichever occurs first. For example, an approved business which receives its final award documentation in October 2005 and has an investment tax credit of \$1 million may apply for a tax credit certificate in May 2006. If, because of proration of the \$4 million of available refundable credits for the fiscal year, the business is awarded a tax credit certificate in the amount of \$300,000, the business may claim the \$300,000 refund and carry forward the unused investment tax credit of \$700,000 up to seven years or until the credit is depleted, whichever occurs first.

68.4(5) Insurance premium tax credit. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.333A, the approved business may claim an insurance premium tax credit equal to a percentage of the new investment directly related to jobs created or retained by the start-up, location, expansion, or modernization of the approved business under the program.

a. Claiming the tax credit. The tax credit shall be earned when the qualifying asset is placed in service. The tax credit shall be amortized equally over a five-year period which the department will, in consultation with the eligible business, define. The five-year amortization period shall be specified in the agreement referenced in subrule 68.5(1). The tax credit shall be allowed against taxes imposed under Iowa Code chapter 432. A tax credit in excess of the tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs first.

b. Investment qualifying for the tax credit. For purposes of this subrule, new investment directly related to jobs created or retained by the start-up, location, expansion or modernization of the approved business under the program means all of the following:

(1) The cost of machinery and equipment, as defined in Iowa Code section 427A.1, subsection 1, paragraphs “e” and “j,” purchased for use in the operation of the approved business.

(2) The purchase price of real property and any buildings and structures located on the real property.

(3) The cost of improvements made to real property which is used in the operation of the approved business.

(4) The annual base rent paid to a third-party developer by an approved business for a period equal to the term of the lease agreement but not to exceed the maximum term of the agreement referenced in subrule 68.5(1), provided the cumulative cost of the base rent payments for that period does not exceed the cost of the land and the third-party developer’s costs to build or renovate the building for the approved business. Annual base rent shall be considered only when the project includes the construction of a new building or the major renovation of an existing building. The approved business shall enter into a lease agreement with the third-party developer for a minimum of five years.

Pursuant to subrule 68.4(9), the approved business shall not claim a tax credit above the amount defined in the final award documentation.

68.4(6) *Research activities credit.* Pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.335, the approved business may claim a corporate tax credit for increasing research activities in Iowa during the period the approved business is participating in the program.

a. Calculation. The credit equals the sum of the following:

(1) Six and one-half percent of the excess of qualified research expenses during the tax year over the base amount for the tax year based upon the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities.

(2) Six and one-half percent of the basic research payments determined under Section 41(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code during the tax year based upon the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities.

The state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is a percent equal to the ratio of qualified research expenditures in this state to total qualified research expenditures.

b. Alternate calculation. In lieu of the credit amount computed in subparagraph 68.4(6)“a”(1), the approved business may elect to compute the credit amount for qualified research expenses incurred in Iowa in a manner consistent with the alternative incremental credit described in Section 41(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. The taxpayer may make this election regardless of the method used for the taxpayer’s federal income tax. The election made under subrule 68.4(6) is for the tax year and the taxpayer may use either the method outlined in paragraph “a” or in this paragraph for any subsequent year.

For purposes of this alternate credit computation method, the credit percentages applicable to the qualified research expenses described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of Section 41(c)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code are 1.65 percent, 2.20 percent, and 2.75 percent, respectively.

c. Additional research activities credit. The credit allowed in this subrule is in addition to the credit authorized in Iowa Code sections 422.10 and 422.33(5). However, if the alternative credit computation method is used in Iowa Code section 422.10 or 422.33(5), the credit allowed in this subrule shall also be computed using that method.

d. Flow-through of tax credits. If the eligible business is a partnership, S corporation, limited liability company, or estate or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the tax credit allowed. The amount claimed by the individual shall be based upon the pro rata share of the individual’s earnings from the partnership, S corporation, limited liability company, or estate or trust.

e. Definitions. For purposes of this subrule, “base amount,” “basic research payment,” and “qualified research expense” mean the same as defined for the federal credit for increasing research activities under Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code except that, for the alternative incremental credit, such amounts are for research conducted within Iowa. For purposes of this subrule, “Internal Revenue Code” means the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 31, 2005.

f. Refunds. Any credit in excess of the tax liability for the taxable year shall be refunded with interest computed under Iowa Code section 422.25. In lieu of claiming a refund, a taxpayer may elect to have the overpayment shown on its final, completed return credited to the tax liability for the following year.

g. Renewable energy generation components. For purposes of this subrule, “research activities” includes the development and deployment of innovative renewable energy generation components manufactured or assembled in Iowa. A renewable energy generation component will no longer be considered innovative when more than 200 megawatts of installed effective nameplate capacity has been achieved. Research activities credits awarded under this program and the enterprise zone program for innovative renewable energy generation components shall not exceed \$1 million.

68.4(7) Maximum tax incentives available. Tax incentives and assistance awarded under this program are based upon the number of jobs created or retained that pay the qualifying wage threshold for HQJP as established in 261—Chapter 174 and as defined in 261—Chapter 173 and the amount of qualifying investment. The maximum possible award is based on the following schedule:

a. No high quality jobs are created or retained but economic activity is furthered by the qualifying investment. For purposes of this paragraph, “economic activity” means a modernization project which will result in increased skills and wages for the current employees; a project involving retained jobs; or a project that involves a waiver, granted by the board pursuant to rule 261—174.6(15E,15G,83GA,SF344), of the qualifying wage threshold calculation if the reason for the waiver is that damages were sustained as a result of a natural disaster in a presidentially declared disaster area.

(1) Less than \$100,000 in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 1 percent.
2. Reserved.

(2) \$100,000 to \$499,999 in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 1 percent.
2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

(3) \$500,000 or more in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 1 percent.
2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.
3. Research activities credit.

b. 1 to 5 high quality jobs are created or retained.

(1) Less than \$100,000 in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 2 percent.
2. Reserved.

(2) \$100,000 to \$499,999 in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 2 percent.
2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

(3) \$500,000 or more in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 2 percent.
 2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.
 3. Research activities credit.
- c. 6 to 10 high quality jobs are created or retained.
- (1) Less than \$100,000 in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 3 percent.
 2. Reserved.
 - (2) \$100,000 to \$499,999 in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 3 percent.
 2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.
 - (3) \$500,000 or more in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 3 percent.
 2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.
 3. Research activities credit.
- d. 11 to 15 high quality jobs are created or retained.
- (1) Less than \$100,000 in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 4 percent.
 2. Reserved.
 - (2) \$100,000 to \$499,999 in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 4 percent.
 2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.
 - (3) \$500,000 or more in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 4 percent.
 2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.
 3. Research activities credit.
- e. 16 to 30 high quality jobs are created or retained.
- (1) Less than \$100,000 in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 5 percent.
 2. Reserved.
 - (2) \$100,000 to \$499,999 in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 5 percent.
 2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.
 - (3) \$500,000 or more in qualifying investment.
 1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 4 percent.

2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

3. Research activities credit.

f. 31 to 40 high quality jobs are created or retained.

(1) \$10 million or more in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 6 percent.

2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

3. Research activities credit.

4. Value-added property tax exemption.

(2) Reserved.

g. 41 to 60 high quality jobs are created or retained.

(1) \$10 million or more in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 7 percent.

2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

3. Research activities credit.

4. Value-added property tax exemption.

(2) Reserved.

h. 61 to 80 high quality jobs are created or retained.

(1) \$10 million or more in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 8 percent.

2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

3. Research activities credit.

4. Value-added property tax exemption.

(2) Reserved.

i. 81 to 100 high quality jobs are created or retained.

(1) \$10 million or more in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 9 percent.

2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

3. Research activities credit.

4. Value-added property tax exemption.

(2) Reserved.

j. 101 or more high quality jobs are created or retained.

(1) \$10 million or more in qualifying investment.

1. Investment tax credit or insurance premium tax credit of up to 10 percent.

2. Sales and use tax refund or corporate tax credit for certain sales taxes paid by third-party developer, or both, if applicable.

3. Research activities credit.

4. Value-added property tax exemption.

(2) Reserved.

68.4(8) *Award limitations.* Each calendar year, the department shall not approve more than \$3.6 million worth of investment tax credits and insurance premium tax credits for projects with qualifying investments of less than \$1 million. Tax credits subject to this limitation will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

68.4(9) *Final award amounts.* Rescinded IAB 7/15/09, effective 7/1/09.

[**ARC 7557B**, IAB 2/11/09, effective 3/18/09; **ARC 7970B**, IAB 7/15/09, effective 7/1/09; **ARC 8145B**, IAB 9/23/09, effective 10/28/09]